

REPLY TO:

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20015

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **North Carroll Expansion** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is **Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County, Inc.** located at 71 E. Main Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County (BGCCC) is requesting \$1,432,673 in funds for phase two of a renovation project to transform a vacant high school in Carroll County, into a Boys & Girls Club to serve youth ages 6-18 in the community. The BGCCC North Carroll Club Expansion is a renovation project that repurposes a space in the old North Carroll High School to serve as a Boys & Girls Club, expanding from serving youth in the Westminster and surrounding areas to also providing programming to youth in the northern region of the county. This specific request addresses the costs associated with the renovation of the old school space, plus purchasing furnishings, equipment, technology, and transportation to support programs for 400+ youth. This is a one-time request for funds and BGCCC will not require any additional federal funds to complete this project. BGCCC will sustain the North Carroll Expansion through grants, fundraising, membership fees, in-kind contributions, and community partnerships. The Boys & Girls Club provides a safe place for youth to learn and grow, develop ongoing relationships with caring adults professionals and participate in life enhancing programs that strengthen social emotional wellness, build resilience, and give youth hope for the future. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because BGCCC currently serves over 625 youth annually in Carroll County with most members residing in the Westminster area. The North Carroll Expansion will allow BGCCC to serve an additional 400+ youth annually in District 2 increasing overall youth served by 64%. Carroll County Public Schools report that there are 5,069 school aged youth in this region and that 22% or 1,107 of these youth qualify for Free and Reduced Meals (FaRMs). In addition, 12.3% come from single-family households. BGCCC's demographics reflect that 44% of members are classified as minorities, 62% receive FaRMs and 70% are designated as low to moderate income by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Since Boys & Girls Clubs intentionally target vulnerable youth, many who experience economic and social challenges will be aided in through this program.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress